

Inquiry into the impacts of invasive plants (weeds)  
and their control in Queensland

Submission No. 049

**To:** [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [Brooke Fitzgerald](#)  
**Subject:** SUBMISSION: INQUIRY INTO THE IMPACTS OF INVASIVE PLANTS (WEEDS) AND THEIR CONTROL IN QUEENSLAND  
**Date:** Monday, 16 January 2017 5:33:08 PM

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To Whom It May Concern

**SUBMISSION: INQUIRY INTO THE IMPACTS OF INVASIVE PLANTS (WEEDS)  
AND THEIR CONTROL IN QUEENSLAND**

I believe I am well qualified to speak on topic primarily around Prickly Acacia. My family have been controlling prickly acacia on our properties for close to 20 years, with a fair level of success and at quite a large cost.

Prickly Acacia has dramatically affected hundreds of thousands, if not millions of acres of prime grazing land in the central west and North West, right to the Gulf of Carpentaria.

My written submission is short; however I am happy to attend the inquiry, especially to answer questions from the members.

Firstly I believe the requirement under Section 48 of the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, places an undue level of obligation on Local Government. A Local Government should be responsible for the control of invasive, prohibited and restricted plants on its land or land under its control or trusteeship.

The primary obligation for control should lie firmly with the landholder or leaseholder. In which case, a condition of lease is to control weeds. Very little third party review or influence has occurred, hence the exponential spread of the weed.

The solution lies in partnership with the landowner and the regional NRM Groups. Good evidence of this success can be seen in action with Southern Gulf NRM and Desert Channels. To make this partnership viable though, the State must adequately fund the NRM Groups and provide some of the funding in the control and eradication program, bearing in mind the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries introduced and encouraged the use of Prickly Acacia for fodder and shade.

The affected grazier needs to be fully committed and the fact that banks are starting to take the effect of infestation into account, will encourage commitment.

A no-interest loan facility to pay for initial control may be an acceptable option for the State to discharge some of its obligations.

Ultimately, unless the effort is targeted and wide spread, the best efforts will still be undone by the areas not controlled.

I look forward to positive outcomes from the inquiry and would be happy to provide a tour of areas to show committee members good stories and areas that require a lot of effort.

Should you have any questions or concerns in respect of this matter please contact me at Council's Administration Office.

Yours faithfully

Greg Campbell

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Mayor

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